



Port Community Information Bulletin # 01-05
Marine Safety Office (813) 228-2191
Tampa, Florida

Effective Date: April 14, 2005
Expiration Date: TBD

Automatic Identification System (AIS) Equipment Requirements

Effective January 1, 2005, the following vessels are required to have an Automatic Identification System (AIS) in accordance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 164.46 and SOLAS Chapter V, as applicable.

APPLICABLE VESSELS:

- 1) Self-propelled vessels of 65 feet or more in length engaged in commercial service and on an international voyage, not later than **December 31, 2004;**

The following vessels, in addition to the above, are subject to AIS requirements while transiting Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) areas identified in 33 CFR table 161.12(c) of Sec. 161.12:

- 2) Self-propelled vessels of 65 feet or more in length, other than fishing vessels and passenger vessels certificated to carry less than 151 passengers-for-hire, in commercial service;
- 3) Towing vessels of 26 feet or more in length and more than 600 horsepower, in commercial service;
- 4) Passenger vessels certificated to carry more than 150 passengers-for-hire.

In addition, the following vessels when subject to SOLAS must comply with the AIS the requirements in SOLAS Chapter V:

- Vessels, other than passenger vessels or tankers, of 300 gross tonnage or more but less than 50,000 gross tonnage, not later than the first safety survey for safety equipment on or after July 1, 2004, but no later than **December 31, 2004;**
- Passenger vessels, of 150 gross tonnage or more, not later than **July 1, 2003;**
- Tankers, regardless of tonnage, not later than the first safety survey for safety equipment on or after **July 1, 2003;**
- Vessels, other than passenger vessels or tankers, of 50,000 gross tonnage or more, not later than **July 1, 2004.**

MALFUNCTIONING AIS: Vessels are required to report inoperative required navigation equipment in accordance with Title 33 CFR 164.53(a). Therefore, vessels with a malfunctioning AIS entering the navigable waters of the U.S. must report to the cognizant Captain of the Port Zone and request a Letter of Deviation (LOD).

VESSELS REQUIRED TO HAVE AIS AND ARE NOT EQUIPPED WITH AIS – will be denied entry.
Foreign vessels identified in port without AIS will be detained.

IF AIS IS FITTED BUT NOT BROADCASTING AIS – the vessel may face potential civil penalty action.

U.S. Vessels that engage on international voyages that are not equipped with AIS and do not have a Valid Deviation will be restricted to domestic routes only until compliant.

Please note:

1. AIS should be ceased if the data transmissions either disrupts the AIS VHF data link (e.g. improper MMSI, corrupted transmissions, RFI), and/or negatively impacts other AIS users navigation safety or security (e.g. grossly inaccurate position data or vessel dimensions, being targeted, etc.).

2. Vessel operators may cease AIS TRANSMISSION in unique circumstances where its use will compromise safety or security, such as during the transfer of flammable or combustible liquid/gaseous cargos in any lightering area, or, if under imminent hostile threat or attack. VsIs that intend to cease AIS transmission for the above reasons shall notify the cognizant authority (i.e. VTC, COTP, St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp.) by most effective means and shall document the same in the ship's log. AIS operation while a vessel is moored to a shore side dock is recommended, however not required.

Penalties for failure to comply with any of the AIS equipment regulations, including reporting requirements, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. For further information, please contact my Port State Control Department at 813-228-2191 Ext. 8138 or 8140.

/s/

D.R. BIRD

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard

Alternate Captain of the Port